

INTRODUCTION

The RI Department of Elderly Affairs (DEA) was established in 1977 (RIGL 42-66-1) in response to the growing needs of Rhode Island's older population.

DEA is responsible for the development and implementation of a comprehensive system of programs and services for citizens 60 and older. DEA serves as the state's single planning and service agency under the Older Americans Act.

The 2000 census counted just over one million Rhode Islanders, of whom more than 190,000 were age 60 and older. The state ranks sixth highest in percentage of population of persons 65 and older with more than 152,000.

The mission of the Department of Elderly Affairs is to ensure excellence in service, advocacy, and public policy dedicated to the needs of older Rhode Islanders and their caregivers.

INTRODUCTION

ESPAÑOL

Para asistencia e información relacionado a Servicios en Español, porfavor llamar al Centro de Información al Cliente en el Departamento de Elderly Affairs, all teléfono **462-4000**.

PORTUGUES

Para assistencia e informacao sobre servicos en Portugues, por favor chame para a Agencia de Pessoas Idosas para o number **462-4000** (Voz ou maquina para pessos com problemas de ouvir).

NOTICE

Every effort has been made to insure that the material contained in the **2003 Pocket Manual of Elder Services** is accurate as of the publication date of January 1, 2003. Corrections for the 2004 edition should be forwarded in writing to:

RI Department of Elderly Affairs, Chief of Information and Public Relations, Benjamin Rush-Building #55, 35 Howard Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920.

RI Department of Elderly Affairs

John O. Pastore Center

Benjamin Rush-Building #55

35 Howard Avenue

Cranston, RI 02920

Main Number:.....**462-3000**

Customer Information **462-4000(V/TTY)**

Web site:www.dea.state.ri.us

For faster service, call these departments:

Director:..... **462-0500**

Health Insurance Counseling:..... **462-0508**

Heating Assistance:.....**462-4000**

Home & Community Care:.....**462-0570**

Legal Services Development:**462-0537**

Pharmacy (RIPAE): **462-4000**

Personnel: **462-0502**

Protective Services:..... **462-0555**

Public Relations:..... **462-0509**

Senior Companion Program:**462-0569**

Silver Haired Legislature:..... **462-0504**

Senior Workforce**462-0541**

DIRECTIONS TO DEA

From Route 95 North: Take Exit 14B off Route 95 North to Route 37 West. Take a left at the traffic light on to Pontiac Avenue. Follow the signs to the John O. Pastore Center. At the third traffic light, take a right on to Howard Avenue. DEA is located .3 miles on the right in the Benjamin Rush-Building #55.

From Route 95 South: Take Exit 14B to Route 37 West. Take a left at the traffic light on to Pontiac Avenue. Follow the signs to the John O. Pastore Center. At the third traffic light, take a right on to Howard Avenue. DEA is located .3 miles on the right.

From Reservoir Avenue (Route #2-Note: Route #2 South becomes New London Avenue): At the intersection of New London Avenue and Howard Avenue, turn left on to Howard Avenue (John O. Pastore Center). DEA is located .3 miles on the left.

DIRECTIONS TO DEA

From Route 295: Take Exit 3A-Route 37 East. Turn right on to Pontiac Avenue at Exit 3 and follow signs to John O. Pastore Center. At the third traffic light, take a right on to Howard Avenue. DEA is located .3 miles on the right.

Bus Route: From Kennedy Plaza, Providence, take Bus #22-Pontiac Avenue.RIPTA has several departures each day that stops at DEA. For scheduled times, call RIPTA at **781-9400**, or go to www.ripta.com.

Parking for DEA is located in the front of the building and across the street.

DEA offices are located on the second floor. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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ADULT DAY SERVICES

These centers provide frail and functionally challenged adults with care and supervision in a safe environment.

Bristol: Cornerstone Adult Svcs **254-9629**

Coventry: Cornerstone Adult Svcs **822-6212**

Cranston:

Cranston Adult Day Care **461-1000, X 6243**

Feinstein Alzheimer's Ctr **946-9220**

Victoria Court Adult Day Svcs **946-5522**

Little Compton: Nancy Brayton Osborn **635-2358**

Middletown: Forest Farm Adult Day Svcs **849-8326**

North Providence:

Fruit Hill Day Center for Elderly **353-5805**

Generations Adult Day Health Ctr **725-6400**

Pawtucket: New Horizons Adult Day **727-0950**

Providence:

Crystal Pavilion Adult Day Svcs **272-3887**

Jewish Svcs./Comprehensive ADC **351-2440**

Smithfield: Dora C. Howard, Ltd **949-3890**

So. Kingstown So. Kingstown AD Svcs **783-8736**

Warren: The Willows Adult Day Care **245-2323**

Warwick:

Cornerstone Alzheimer's Ctr **738-8295**

Cornerstone-Apponaug Ctr **739-2847**

Westerly Adult Day Svcs **596-1336**

Woonsocket: Alternative Adult Care **766-0516**

ADVOCACY

Seniors have opportunities to influence public policy through the following groups:

The **Rhode Island Forum on Aging** is a consortium of leaders from established senior, educational, and advocacy organizations. It seeks to inform the public about issues important to elders. The **Forum** promotes the delivery of improved programs and services for older Rhode Islanders, and it lobbies before the state legislature for appropriate legislation and funding for senior services. Call **462-0504**.

The **Advisory Commission on Aging**, mandated by state law, advises the Governor and the Director of the Department of Elderly Affairs regarding issues and problems confronting older Rhode Islanders. Call **462-0504**.

The **Silver Haired Legislature (SHL)** is a non-profit, non-partisan group of older citizens who meet regularly and convene in general session each November to debate issues, develop resolutions, and recommend legislation to state and national officials. Call **462-0504**.

ADVOCACY

AARP is a non-profit, non-partisan organization for those 50 and older. Membership benefits include pharmacy service, insurance, group travel service, local chapter meetings, and legislative awareness. Call the RI Chapter of AARP at **272-0233**.

The **Alliance for Better Long Term Care** advocates for those in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and those receiving licensed health care or hospice services in the home. The Alliance also offers Volunteer Ombudsman Program for those interested in advocating for those living in long-term care facilities. Call **785-3340**.

The **Rhode Island Long Term Care Coordinating Council** was created in 1987 to bring together leaders from the public and private sector to coordinate the state's long term care agenda. Call **222-2371**.

Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE/RI) offers support and social opportunities to elder gay persons. Call **751-1487**.

The Gray Panthers of RI advocate for affordable health care, housing, and transportation. Call **725-1122**.

Aging 2000, 1 Richmond Square, Providence, RI 02906, is a grassroots non-profit organization working to make the health care system work better. Call **521-7930**.

AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND

IN-SIGHT, 43 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI 02888 helps blind persons develop skills in communication, mobility, orientation, self-care, and homemaking.

IN-SIGHT assists those having problems with aging and blindness. IN-SIGHT radio broadcasts readings of newspapers, magazines and books for the blind and visually impaired. Call **941-3322**.

Saving Sight conducts glaucoma screening programs and public information campaigns to detect and fight causes of blindness. Call **738-1150**.

State Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired provides vocational rehabilitation, counseling, medical evaluation, home teaching and other services. Call **222-2300** or **222-3010 (TTY)**.

Any resident 65 or older who does not have an ophthalmologist can receive no cost medical eye care services through the **National Eye Care Project**. Call **1-800-222-EYES (3937)**.

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

The **Rhode Island Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association** is a non-profit organization affiliated with the national group. Its mission is to coordinate resources for caregivers, educate health professionals and the general public, and advocate for improved public policy. Other services of the Alzheimer's Association include a help-line, speaker's bureau, newsletter, affiliated family support groups, and an early stage support group for those with the disease. To obtain these services call:

Alzheimer's Association, RI Chapter

245 Waterman Street**421-0008**

Providence, RI 02906 **1-800-244-1428**

Police departments with **Alzheimer's Alert** programs register Alzheimer's patients so the police may assist them if they are found wandering.

Many services listed in this booklet may be helpful to those with Alzheimer's disease and their families, including assisted living/residential care, home and community care, adult day services, elder care services, caregiver support groups, and legal services.

ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION

Arthritis affects nearly 40 million Americans, or one in seven people. While arthritis causes chronic pain and loss of movement, there are many ways to help people with arthritis lead comfortable, fulfilling lives.

The **Arthritis Foundation, Southern NE Chapter**, 2348 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886 offers a number of programs and services such as:

- People with Arthritis Can Exercise (PACE)
- Aquatics Program located at various pools across Rhode Island
- Self-Help classes
- Fibromyalgia Support Groups
- Arthritis Support Groups
- Information and Referral (including physician referral)
- Speakers Bureau
- Childhood Arthritis
- Financial Assistance

The **Arthritis Foundation** supports research to find the cure for and prevention of arthritis and to improve the quality of life for those affected by arthritis. Call **739-3773**.

CASE MANAGEMENT

Case management programs assist older Rhode Islanders who wish to remain at home for as long as possible.

To qualify, RI residents must be 60 or older (or Alzheimer's victims of any age), homebound, frail, or disabled, and unable to remain at home without supportive care.

After an assessment, care manager develops a plan of care which includes options for community based services. The care manager will assist in securing needed services, monitor the care plan, and offer training and support for family caregivers.

Clients may qualify for free or reduced-cost home care services.

Contact the nearest agency:

CRA: (Woonsocket) **1-877-767-4511**

Child & Family Service of **848-4114**

Newport City (Aquidneck Island)

Meals on Wheels of RI **351-6700**

(Providence County)

Self-Help, Inc. (East Bay) **437-1000**

Tri-Town Comm. Action **351-2750, X1163**

(Northwest)

Westbay Community Action **732-4660**

(Kent County)

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS

Community Action Programs (CAPs) are local social service agencies working to alleviate the problems of poverty through a positive and coordinated approach.

Programs include community organizing, consumer education, counseling, health, winterization, and other services.

Minor home repairs, energy audits, storm doors and windows, insulation, caulking and weather-stripping, window replacement, boiler repairs, and replacement burners comprise CAP weatherization services.

Blackstone Valley CAP	723-4520
Comprehensive CAP(Cranston)	467-9610
New Visions for Newport Cty	847-7821
Providence (Prov. County)	273-2000
Self-Help (East Bay).....	437-1000
South County Cap.....	789-3016
Tri-Town Cap (Northwest)	351-2750
Westbay Cap.....	732-4660
Woonsocket CAP	766-0900

COMMUNITY ELDER INFORMATION SPECIALISTS

Community elder information specialists assist with questions and concerns about programs and services for seniors. Information specialists are available at:

Central Falls: YMCA Center.....	728-7300
Cranston Senior Svcs	461-1000, X6255
Coventry Senior Center.....	822-6229
Ea. Prov Senior Center.....	435-7800, X217
Lincoln Senior Center.	724-2000
No. Prov: Salvatore Mancini Ctr	231-0742
Pawtucket: Leon Mathieu Center.....	728-7582
Portsmouth Senior Center.....	683-7943
Providence:	
DaVinci Center.....	272-7474
Diocese of Prov./Respite Svcs.....	421-7886
Jewish Seniors Agency	1-888-593-2293
St. Martin dePorres Center.	274-6783
SEDC	274-8811
Urban League	351-5000, X135
Westminster Senior Center.....	274-6900
South Kingstown: The Center.....	789-0268
Warwick: Pilgrim Senior Center.....	468-4500
Westerly Senior Citizens Center.....	596-2404
West Warwick Senior Center.	822-4450
Woonsocket Senior Center.....	766-3734

DENTAL SERVICES

The **Community College of RI** dental hygiene students perform routine cleanings and preventive services from September through May at the Lincoln campus. For details, call **333-7250**.

The **Donated Dental** program offers free or reduced-cost dental services to income-eligible seniors. Call **728-9448**.

The **Northwest Community Healthcare Center**, 36 Bridgeway, Burrillville, RI 02859 provides general dentistry services to eligible residents of Burrillville, Foster, Glocester, North Smithfield, and Smithfield. Fees are on a sliding scale. For information, call **568-7661**.

The **St. Francis Wellness Center**, 45 Weybosset Street, Providence 02903 provides free dental services on Wednesday afternoons. Call **861-8195**.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Rhode Island residents 60 and older may take courses at state colleges and at the University of Rhode Island without paying tuition on a space-available basis. Students must have a household income less than three times the federal poverty limit. Currently, the limit is less than \$26,580 for one person and \$35,820 for a 2-person household. Other fees and charges may apply.

Local private colleges and universities may have adult education programs. Contact the school office of continuing education.

The **Elderhostel** program gives seniors 55 and older the student experience of taking courses, living in a dorm, and participating in campus life for about \$600 a week. Contact the DEA **Elderhostel** coordinator at **462-0504** for scholarship information.

For additional information or an **Elderhostel** catalog, contact Elderhostel, Inc., 75 Federal Street, Boston, MA 02110; or, telephone at **617-426-8056**. Visit their web site at www.elderhostel.org.

Some churches, libraries, and other organizations sponsor lifetime learning groups. Contact your local school department for information on adult education.

ELDERCARE LOCATOR

The **Eldercare Locator** is a nationwide service to help families and friends find information about community services for older people anywhere in the United States and its territories.

This is a referral service, which links callers to an information and referral agency serving a state or community. Information and referral links people in need with the appropriate services to meet the need.

The Eldercare Locator can connect callers to information sources for such services as home delivered meals, transportation, legal advice, adult day care, home health services, housing options, and much more.

The Locator's toll free number **1-800-677-1116**, or **202-885-1000 (TTY)** is staffed Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. You can also log onto their web site at www.eldercare.gov.

While the call to the Locator service is free, the subsequent call to the information and referral service in another state may not be free.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEMS

Emergency response systems (ERSs) provide a value time-saving link between people who are alone or frightened of being alone, and a communications center. An ERS gives peace of mind to know that help is only a touch-of-a-button away, 24 hours a day. The following operate ERSs:

Comfort Keepers: ResponseLink..... **792-8300**

Community Care Nurses: Lifeline **295-8862**

Health Watch Personal Response: **1-800-226-8100**

Homefront Healthcare: Lifeline..... **738-0409**

Jewish Family Service: Lifeline **331-1244, X19**

Memorial Hospital: Lifeline **729-2449**

NE Protection **1-800-988-2554**

Newport Hospital: Lifeline **845-1637**

Ocean State Nursing Services:

Lifeline **765-6465**

RI Meals on Wheels: Lifeline **351-6700**

Westerly Hospital: Lifeline **348-2300**

VNS Bristol/Newport City:

Health Watch **682-2100**

VNS of Greater RI: Lifeline **769-5670**

FRIENDLY VISITING

The **Neighborhood Friendly Visitor Program** provides companionship and friendly support to homebound elderly persons across the state. Volunteers' visit, read, write letters, and chat with shut-ins who benefit from regular social contact.

This program welcomes seniors who wish to volunteer their time for a few hours each week. Homebound seniors may also call to find out about getting a visitor.

Neighborhood Friendly Visitor Program

83 Stewart Street **421-7886**

Providence, RI 02903 **1-800-445-2033**

Most **Retired Senior Volunteer Programs** in Rhode Island also provide opportunities for friendly visiting activities. Please refer to the "Volunteer" section of this booklet.

Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE/RI) reaches out to lesbians and gay men who may be isolated through advocacy, outreach, and social activities. Call **751-1487**.

GERIATRIC ASSESSMENTS

Geriatric assessment units make a comprehensive assessment of a person's medical status. Seniors who have shown recent changes in their physical, psychological, or social functioning are candidates for assessment. A team of professionals identifies health and medical problems and plans a course of treatment.

Ea. Prov: Comp. Neuroscience..... **435-8950**

Newport Hosp. Memory Assessment..... **845-1044**

North Providence:

Roger Williams Geriatric

Consultation Service **231-0450**

Pawtucket:

Memorial Hospital **729-2483**

Alzheimer's/Memory Disorder

Providence:

Butler Hospital Memory..... **455-6403**

Disorders Program

Miriam Hospital Cognitive

Assessment Service..... **793-5151**

Rhode Island Hospital

Geriatric Services..... **444-8054**

HEALTH CENTERS

Community health centers provide many health services for low-income members. Seniors are welcome. Payment is on a sliding scale.

Block Island Health Svcs	466-2125
Burrillville Northwest Health.....	568-7661
Central Falls Health. Ctr.	724-7110
Coventry Family Health. Ctr.....	828-5335
Cranston Family Health. Ctr.	943-1981
Ea. Providence: East Bay Ctr.....	437-1008
Johnston: Tri-Town Health. Ctr.	351-2750
Newport: New Visions Hlth. Ctr.	848-6697
No. Kingstown: Bayside Ctr.....	295-9706
Pawtucket:	
Blackstone Valley Health. Ctr	729-0081

HEALTH CENTERS

Providence:

Allen Berry Health Ctr. **444-0570**
Capitol Hill Health Ctr. **444-0550**
Central Health Ctr. **444-0580**
Chad Brown Health Ctr. **274-6339**
Fox Point Health Ctr. **444-0530**
Olneyville Health Ctr. **444-0540**
Traveler's Aid Health Ctr. **521-2255**

Richmond:

Wood River Health Svcs **539-2461**

South Kingstown:

Thundermist Health Ctr. **783-0523**

Tiverton:

New Visions Health Ctr. **625-5197**

Woonsocket:

Thundermist Health Ctr. **767-4100**

The **St. Francis Chapel and City Ministry Wellness Center**, 45 Weybosset Street, Providence 02903 provides health services to those in need. Call **861-8195**.

HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION

The **Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP)** offers free information, counseling, and assistance with health insurance problems to Medicare beneficiaries and other older adults.

Volunteer SHIP counselors can discuss Medicare, supplemental insurance, managed care, over-insurance, free and reduced-cost medical care programs, and long term care insurance.

Volunteers present information to allow consumers to make their best decisions. They do not recommend insurances.

For more information on SHIP, call DEA at **462-0508**.

The Internet site www.medicare.gov offers Medicare information. The **MEDICARE COMPARE** database compares health plans benefits, out-of-pocket costs, and other features.

The **RI Guide to Buying Medicare Supplement Insurance and HMOs** is free from the DEA. It contains current information about available health plans in Rhode Island, including coverage and premiums. Call **462-4000 (V/TTY)**.

HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION

SHIP volunteers are located at these sites.

Barrington Senior Center	247-1926
Central Falls: YMCA Community Center ..	728-7300
Coventry Senior Center	822-9175
Cranston Senior Services	461-1000
East Providence Sr. Center	435-7800
Lincoln Senior Center	724-2000
North Kingstown Sr. Center	295-0666
North Providence: Salvatore Mancini Ctr	231-0742
Pawtucket:	
Leon Mathieu Senior Ctr	728-7582
Portsmouth Senior Center	683-4106
Providence:	
DaVinci Center	272-7474
Lillian Feinstein Center	455-3888
St. Martin dePorres Center	274-6783
Westminster Senior Center	274-6900
South Kingstown: The Center	789-0268
Tiverton Senior Center	625-6790
Warwick: Pilgrim Sr. Center	463-3474
Westerly Senior Center	596-2404
Woonsocket RSVP	766-2300

HEARING AND SPEECH SERVICES

The **Rhode Island Hospital** (444-5485 or 444-5487-TTY), **Memorial Hospital** (729-2316 or 723-2050-TTY), and **URI Hearing and Speech Centers** (874-5969) diagnose and treat hearing, speech, language and swallowing problems.

The **Sargent Rehabilitation Center** provides hearing screening, diagnosis and rehabilitation; dispensing hearing aids and assistive listening and augmentative communication devices; and education or counseling on hearing aid management. Certain fees apply. Call **886-6600 (V/TTY)**.

Audiologists identify and evaluate impaired hearing; determine the need for hearing rehabilitation; and dispense hearing aids.

Self-Help for Hard of Hearing (SHHH) meets at the Sargent Center. Call **886-4536**.

The **RI Relay Service** (1-800-745-6575/Voice and 1-800-745-5555/TTY, and 1-800-745-1570 ASCII) connects text telephone (TTY) and telebraille callers with standard telephone users at no charge, 24 hours a day.

The **RI Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing** administers a sign language interpreter referral service and offers information and referral.

Call **222-1204** or **222-1205** (TTY).

HEATING ASSISTANCE

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides assistance to income eligible customers in meeting the costs of heating their homes.

The amount of assistance provided is based on household size and income level.

Current income guidelines are:

1-person household	\$20,160
2-person household	\$26,362
3-person household	\$32,565

Heating assistance is available to households that are responsible for their heating costs. Actual LIHEAP grants are based on household income.

Apply for heating assistance at:

Blackstone Valley CAP	725-8707
(Woonsocket residents)	765-3258
Comprehensive CAP	467-7013
Self-Help, Inc.	437-1000
Providence:	
Over 60: Dept. of Elderly Affairs.....	462-4000
Under 60: Prov. CAP	273-0882
South County CAP	789-3016
Tri-Town CAP	351-2750, X1117
Westbay CAP	732-4660

HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE

The **DEA Home and Community Care Program** provides eligible seniors with several innovative options to help them remain in the community. These options are designed to help the senior meet a wide variety of medical, environmental, and social needs.

Based on eligibility, home health aide or homemaker services, adult day services, a personal emergency response system, durable medical equipment, minor home repairs or modifications, as well as Meals on Wheels, or a Senior Companion may be provided.

For some individuals, arrangements may be made for the person to move into an assisted living facility.

To be eligible for the **Home and Community Care Program**, a person must be 65 or older, a resident of Rhode Island, and be basically homebound (unable to leave home without considerable assistance).

HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE

For those persons on Medical Assistance (Medicaid), services under the **Home and Community Care Program** are provided at no charge. For persons meeting the guidelines for the RI Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Elderly (RIPAE) program, services are provided using a sliding scale. Currently, these annual income guidelines are \$16,919 for a single person and \$21,419 for a couple.

Each year on July 1, these guidelines are changed to reflect the Social Security cost-of living adjustment (COLA).

DEA works with case management agencies and other senior service organizations to develop a care plan and arrange for services to help the senior maintain his/her independence.

For more information about the **Home and Community Care Program**, call **462-0570**.

HOME EQUITY CONVERSION MORTGAGE

Rhode Island's **Home Equity Conversion Mortgage** (HECM) program allows seniors to borrow against the equity in their homes. The loan is repaid when the house is sold, or when the owner/borrower ceases to live in it. This type of program is sometimes referred to as a "reverse mortgage program."

Under HECM, borrowers must be 62 or older and have annual incomes below \$62,600. They must live in new or existing one-to-four family homes or FHA-approved condominiums.

HECM loans are at a variable interest rate.

Borrowers may choose to receive monthly payments, a line of credit, or a combination of monthly payments and a line of credit.

The Home Equity Conversion Mortgage program is a program of RI Housing, 44 Washington Street, Providence, RI 02903. Call RI Housing at **751-5566** or **1-800-427-5560** for additional information. Or, visit their web site at www.rihousing.com.

HOUSING

You must be 62 or older, or have a disability, to be eligible for elderly **subsidized housing** (50 or older in Providence public housing, or 55 in Warwick). Applicants may apply for housing in any community they desire.

Very low-income applicants (less than \$19,650 annually for an individual and \$22,500 for a couple) have priority for subsidized housing. Senior housings maintain waiting lists after all units are filled. Tenants pay 30% of their monthly income for rent. Medical expenses that exceed 3% of income serve to reduce the amount of rent owed.

The DEA can provide lists of Rhode Island's senior subsidized housings, retirement communities and assisted living/residential care facilities. Call **462-4000 (V/TTY)** for more information.

Inquire at the local housing authorities or **Rhode Island Housing** at **751-5566**, or **1-800-427-5560** about Section 8 rental vouchers for existing units.

For additional information about **Rhode Island Housing** programs, visit their web site at www.rihousing.com.

HOUSING

Assisted living residences provide rooms or apartments, meals, 24-hour staffing, assistance with personal care and medication, housekeeping, laundry, activities, and other services for adults to maintain themselves in their own home.

The cost varies considerably.

There are approximately 70 licensed assisted living facilities in the state, contact DEA at **462-4000 (V/TTY)**.

The Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless, 790 North Main Street, Providence 02904 publishes the "Street Sheet" and lists emergency shelters, food pantries, and other help-line information. Call **421-6458**.

Traveler's Aid of RI, 177 Union Street, Providence 02903 also provides information and referral for the homeless and those in transition. Call **521-2255**.

HOUSING

Many Rhode Island communities offer low-interest housing rehabilitation loans to qualified residents through the **RI Housing's Home Repair Program**. Call your city/town, or the **RI Housing Home Repair Hotline** at **457-1127**.

The **U.S.D.A. Rural Development** provides grants and loans for home repair and improvement to qualified homeowners. Call **826-0842**.

Rhode Island has two **Independent Living Centers** that provide information and services to disabled persons to enhance their independence.

The Ocean State Center for Independent Living (OSCIL), 1944 Warwick Avenue, Warwick 02889 can be reached at **738-1013 (Voice)** or **738-1015 (TTY)** and **People Actively Reaching Independence (PARI)**, 500 Prospect Street, Pawtucket 02860 at **725-1966 (V/TTY)**.

IDENTIFICATION CARDS

The DEA issues senior citizen identification cards for Rhode Islanders 60 and older and residents age 18 to 59 with a disability. These photo-identification cards also contain the owner's name, address, Social Security number, date of birth, and signature. They are valid as proof of identification for cashing checks and other banking transactions involving government funds under \$750 at RI financial institutions.

Cards are issued weekdays at the DEA office in Cranston from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Seniors must present proof of age, such as driver's license, birth certificate, or a RIPTA bus pass. Persons with a disability must present a current Social Security disability or Veterans disability award letter. A \$2 donation per ID card is requested.

Further information about the ID card program is available by calling the DEA at **462-4000 (V/TTY)**.

The Rhode Island Registry of Motor Vehicles also offers free identification cards to persons 59 and older. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For information, call **222-5664**.

LEGAL SERVICES

The DEA Legal Counselor helps elders obtain legal assistance. The developer provides public information on legal issues affecting older people and is available to speak at senior organizations. Call **462-0537**.

RI Legal Services Senior Citizens Program helps low-income persons 60 and older with legal advice and assistance. This program assists seniors with housing, Social Security, Medical Assistance, Medicare, food stamps, and other problems.

Rhode Island Legal Services is located at 56 Pine Street, Providence, RI 02903. Call **274-2652**, or **272-5335 (TTY)**, or **1-800-662-5034** for information. The Newport office is located at 50 Washington Square, Newport, RI 02840. The telephone number is **846-2264** or **1-800-637-4529**.

The **RI Bar Association's Legal Information and Referral Service for the Elderly**, 115 Cedar Street, Providence, RI 02903 helps anyone 60 and older obtain legal services and advice. Seniors may receive a free initial consultation of up to 30 minutes. A reduced-fee program is available for moderate-income seniors. A no-fee program is available for certain low-income seniors. Call **521-5040 (Voice)** or **421-1666 (TTY)**. Collect calls are accepted.

LEGAL SERVICES

Advance directives are written instructions indicating which medical care we wish to receive or not receive if we are unable to communicate our wishes.

The **durable power of attorney for health care** permits adults to appoint an agent to make health care decisions on the person's behalf, if the need arises.

With a **living will**, individuals direct their physicians as to which life-sustaining medical procedures they wish to utilize or stop, if these procedures only serve to prolong the dying process.

Single copies of both the living will and durable power of attorney for health care are available from the DEA by calling **462-4000 (V/TTY)**. No specific form is required for the living will. Advance directives may be revoked at any time.

The DEA legal services developer is available to discuss advance directives before senior groups. Call **462-0537**.

The **COMFORT ONE** bracelet program enables emergency medical service personnel to honor a terminal patient's request to avoid resuscitation in his last minutes. Call **222-2401**.

LIBRARY SERVICES/TECH ASSISTANCE

Persons who have a visual impairment or physical disability that hinders them from using traditional library materials may borrow books and magazines in large print, braille, or talking books on cassette or disc free of charge through **Talking Books Plus**.

Call:

Talking Books Plus

One Capitol Hill

Providence, RI 02908

222-5800

Machines and materials are mailed directly through the U.S. mail free of charge. However, the statewide library delivery system allows homebound persons to return materials through their local public library.

TechACCESS of Rhode Island, 110 Jefferson Boulevard, Suite I, Warwick, RI 02889 enables persons with disabilities to try out computers, software, and other assistive and adaptive equipment. Call **463-0202** for an appointment or information.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Medical Assistance (Medicaid) pays for needed medical care for people 65 and older or who have a disability.

Eligibility:	Individual	Couple
Monthly Income	\$738	\$995
Resource	\$4,000	\$6,000
Life insurance: \$4,000 per person		

If your income exceeds the above guidelines, you may still be eligible to be through the "flexible test." Apply at the nearest **Department of Human Services (DHS)**

office:

Cranston & Vicinity	462-6500
East Bay	438-7500
Johnston & Vicinity	222-5566
Newport/Aquidneck Islds	849-6000/ 1-800-675-9397
Pawtucket & Vicinity	729-5400
Providence	222-7000
South County	267-1030/ 1-800-862-0222
Warwick	736-6511/ 1-800-471-1757
Woonsocket	235-6300/1-800-510-6988

If you have a question, or would like an application, call the **DHS Info Line** at **462-5300 (Voice)** or **462-3363 (TTY)**.

MEDICARE

Medicare hospital insurance (Part A) provides basic protection against costs of needed care in a hospital, skilled nursing facility, at home, and for hospice care.

Medicare medical insurance (Part B) provides supplemental protection against costs of physicians' and providers' services. The monthly premium is \$58.70 during 2003. Apply for Medicare at Social Security three months before turning age 65.

Rhode Island law (RIGL 5-37-5.1) prohibits physicians from charging Medicare patients more than the amount Medicare approves for covered services.

For Medicare information, call **1-800-MEDICARE (633-4227)** or log onto www.medicare.gov. Blue Cross/Blue Shield of RI processes most Part B claims for Rhode Island. Call **1-800-662-5170** or **1-888-239-3356 (TTY)** for information. Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Western NY processes claims for durable medical equipment. Call **1-800-842-2052**. To report Medicare fraud, call the Aging 2000 Medicare fraud hotline at **1-888-684-7200**.

RI Quality Partners, 235 Promenade Street, Suite 500, Providence, RI 02908 investigates complaints of improper or inadequate care and works to improve the quality of care for Medicare beneficiaries. Call **528-3200**.

MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAM

The Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB), Specified Low-income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) and Qualifying Individuals programs pay the monthly Medicare Part B premium (\$58.70) for eligible Medicare beneficiaries.

	Individual	Couple
Monthly income QMB:	\$738	\$995
SLMB:	886	1,194
Resources:	\$4,000	\$6,000

QMB pays the Medicare Part A premium, if necessary, plus the Medicare deductibles and coinsurance's. SLMB and QI-1 benefits can be retroactive up to 3 months prior to the month of application. Income limits change every April 1.

Qualifying for any of these programs increases your Social Security benefit. This can affect eligibility for Medical Assistance and other programs.

To apply, contact the nearest Department of Human Services office. To locate the nearest DHS office, call the **DHS Info Line at 462-5300 (Voice) or 462-3363 (TTY)**.

MENTAL HEALTH

Community mental health clinics provide mental health and counseling services. Fees are based on a sliding scale.

Community Counseling Center

(Pawtucket).....**722-5573**

East Bay Mental Hlth. Ctr.....**431-9875**

Kent Cty Mental Hlth. Ctr**732-5656**

Mental Health Svcs. Of NW RI**553-1000**

Newport County Community

Mental Health Center.....**846-1213**

Northern RI Comm. Svcs.....**766-3330**

Providence Center**528-0123**

So.Shore Mental Hlth, Ctr.....**364-7705**

The **Mental Health Association of RI**, 500 Prospect Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860, provides information and referral about mental health services and support groups, distributes educational materials, and advocates for improved mental health services. Call **726-2285**.

The **St. Francis Chapel and City Ministry Counseling Center**, 58 Weybosset Street, Providence 02903 can offers mental health counseling to seniors on a sliding scale. For information, call **331-6510**.

MENTAL HEALTH

Jewish Family Service, 229 Waterman Street, Providence 02906 offers individual and marital counseling, for elderly and their families, Call **331-1244**.

The Samaritans of RI is a suicide prevention program that works with people before they become suicidal and with those who are thinking of suicide. Call **272-4044** or **1-800-365-4044**.

The DEA provides guidance to families who need assistance in dealing with seniors who are experiencing problems with alcohol, drugs and addictive behaviors. The DEA can help to coordinate treatment and support services for the elderly, family members and significant others.

Butler Hospital: Senior Treatment Program**455-6220**

Roger Williams Medical Center**1-800-252-6466**

Veterans Administration Med. Ctr.**457-3393**

Veterans are eligible for care regardless of ability to pay.

SSTAR of RI **1-800-747-6237**

Seniors who are experiencing problems with gambling should call the **Gambling Hotline** at:

1-877-9-GAMBLE (1-877-942-6253). For a list of **Gamblers Anonymous** meetings, call **886-6850**.

NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM

The **National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP)** was enacted and became part of the Older Americans Act in 2000. The program calls for states to work in partnership with community-based agencies to develop and provide five basic services to assist families taking care elders.

These five services are information, assistance, counseling, respite care, and supplemental services.

Rhode Island has developed the **Partners in caRing...supporting Rhode Island caregivers** coalition to support family caregivers. For information on Rhode Island NFCSP programs, call **462-0560**.

For information on the federal NFCSP initiative, go to the Administration on Aging web site at www.aoa.gov. and follow the Families and Elders link to the **National Family Caregiver Support Program**.

NURSING HOMES

Medicare offers limited skilled nursing facility care when certain conditions are met. Call a **Department of Human Services** long-term care office for information about Medical Assistance and nursing home care:

Cranston**462-5182**

Newport **849-6000/ 1-800-675-9397**

Providence/Ea. Providence.....**222-7000**

Woonsocket. **235-6300/ 1-800-510-6988**

The **Department of Health** maintains a list of nursing homes and investigates patient abuse. Call **222-2566 (V/TTY)** for information.

The informational leaflet **Medical Assistance and Paying for Nursing Home Care** is available from the DEA. Call **462-4000 (V/TTY)**.

NURSING HOMES

The Alliance for Better Long Term Care, 422 Post Road, Warwick 02888 serves as the state's long term care ombudsman, offering mediation and problem-solving. Call **785-3340**.

The **RI Health Care Association**, 57 Kilvert Street, Warwick 02886 at 732-9333 and the **RI Association of Facilities and Services for the Aging**, 225 Chapman Street, Suite 301, Providence 02905 at **490-7610** are sources of information about nursing home care.

Information is now available about the quality of care in local nursing homes. Among the measurements used are management of pain, nutrition, infections, the use of physical restraints, and other standards.

Go to the web at www.medicare.gov and select the "Nursing Home Compare" link. Information is available by state. You can also call Medicare at **1-800-MEDICARE (633-4227)**, or **1-877-486-2048 (Voice/TTY)**.

Nursing home comparisons are also available at the **RI Department of Health** site www.healthri.org and follow the links under the "Nursing Home" category.

NUTRITION

The **Ocean State Senior Dining Program** provides nutritionally balanced, hot lunches are served five days a week at more than 75 meal sites for persons who are 60 or older, or disabled persons. In the case of a married couple, one person must be 60 or older.

Seniors may donate to the cost of the meal, but no one is refused a meal if unable to contribute. Transportation to the nearest meal site is available through the program. At least 24 hours notice is required for reservations. To locate your local meal site, call these agencies:

C.O.A.S.I.

Northwest RI.....**725-6444**

Meals on Wheels of RI

Providence.....**351-6700**

Self-Help, Inc.

East Bay/Bristol & Newport Counties..**437-1000**

Senior Services, Inc.

Northern RI.....**766-3734**

Westbay CAP

Kent/Washington Counties.....**732-4660**

NUTRITION

The **Meals on Wheels of RI** program, 70 Bath Street, Providence, RI 02908 provides delivery of a hot, nutritious noontime meal to frail, homebound seniors five days per week.

To qualify, seniors must be 60 years or older; live alone and have no one to help them; and be unable to shop, cook, or drive.

Disabled persons under 60 may be eligible in certain circumstances. Donations for the meal are accepted.

Meals on Wheels always welcomes new volunteers. Call **351-6700** for information, or visit their web site www.rimeals.org.

NUTRITION

The **Food Stamp** program helps low-income households purchase more food.

Eligibility for persons over 60:

Household size: 1-person 2-person

Monthly income after

all deductions \$960 \$1294

Resources (savings, etc.) \$3,000 \$3,000

Possible deductions from gross income are a standard deduction of \$134 per household; a telephone deduction of \$22.50; an earned income deduction for working households; medical expenses over \$35 per month; and excess shelter costs over 50% of net income. Seniors may request a home interview.

Pawtucket/Central Falls: **729-5400**

1-800-984-8989

Providence/Cranston Office **222-7276**

Warwick: **738-8900**

1-800-282-7021

Woonsocket & Northern RI **235-6300**

1-800-510-6988

NUTRITION

Several resources are also available to older Rhode Islanders who are in need of emergency food services.

The **RI Community Food Bank**, 104 Hay Street, West Warwick 02893 helps people stretch their food budgets. Call **826-3073**.

The **St. Francis Chapel and City Ministry Food Center**, 100 Elm Street, Providence 02903 also offers emergency food services. Call **455-3740**.

Other emergency food resources include **The Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless**, 790 North Main Street, Providence 02904 at 421-6458 and **Traveler's Aid of RI**, 177 Union Street, Providence 02903 at **521-2255**.

In addition to these agencies, many local churches have food pantries or can render emergency food assistance.

PRESCRIPTION PROGRAMS

The **RI Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Elderly (RIPAE)** program pays a portion of the cost of prescriptions used to treat Alzheimer's disease, arthritis, diabetes (including insulin and syringes for insulin injections), heart problems, depression, anti-infectives, Parkinson's disease, high blood pressure, cancer, urinary incontinence, circulatory insufficiency, high cholesterol, asthma and chronic respiratory conditions, osteoporosis, glaucoma, and prescription vitamins and mineral supplements for renal patients for eligible RI residents 65 and older.

Individuals with an annual income under \$16,919 and married couples with a combined annual income under \$21,149 receive a 60% discount. Individuals with annual incomes between \$16,920 and \$21,238, and married couples with annual incomes between \$21,150 and \$26,548 receive a 30% discount. Individuals with annual incomes between \$21,239 and \$37,167, and married couples with annual incomes between \$26,549 and \$42,476 receive a 15% discount.

RIPAE enrollees can purchase all other FDA-approved prescriptions (except for those used to treat cosmetic conditions) at the discounted **RIPAE** price. There is no state co-payment for the medications purchased in this category.

PRESCRIPTION PROGRAMS

Also under **RIPAE**, Rhode Island residents between 55 and 64 who are receiving Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) payments, and who meet specified income limits, may also purchase all medications on the **RIPAE** formulary at the program-discounted price. There is no state co-payment for the medications purchased in this category. The annual income limits for those receiving SSDI are \$37,167 for a single person and \$42,476 for a married couple. Call **462-4000 (V/TTY)**.

A number of pharmaceutical manufacturers make some of their drugs available free of charge to patients who have difficulty paying for them. These are voluntary programs, so each drug manufacturer sets its own eligibility criteria. Most programs require physicians to make direct contact with the manufacturer. Drugs available are generally those used to treat long term illnesses.

There are also a number of private prescription programs which may be of benefit to senior consumers.

PRESCRIPTION PROGRAMS

The DEA Customer Information and Assistance Center can help older Rhode Islanders with securing medications covered under the various pharmaceutical manufacturer or private medication programs. Call **462-4000(V/TTY)**.

The **URI Pharmacy Outreach Program** assists Rhode Island residents regarding the availability of free or low cost medications through the **Medication for the Needy Program**. Call **1-800-215-9001**, Monday-Friday, 8 A.M. to Noon. The **Outreach Program** also provides educational seminars, health screens, and discussion groups on health related topics. Call to schedule a program.

The **URI Medication Information Line** provides information on the use of prescription medications. Pharmacists are on call to answer medication questions. Call **1-800-287-5571**.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

The Department of Elderly Affairs **Protective Services Unit** is responsible for investigating complaints of **elderly abuse** of Rhode Islanders 60 and older. Abuse may include physical, emotional, sexual financial exploitation or abandonment.

Rhode Island law requires any person who has reasonable cause to believe that an elderly person has been abused to report it to the DEA. Failure to report abuse of a person 60 or older can result in a fine of up to \$1,000.

The DEA **Protective Services Unit** develops a care plan to prevent additional abuse and address the elder's social service needs.

Self-Neglect occurs when a person is no longer able to care of himself/herself. Reports of **self-neglect** are also made to the DEA **Protective Services Unit**. The senior's needs are assessed and necessary services are offered.

All information regarding protective services remains strictly confidential and is not considered a matter of public record. To file an elderly abuse or self-neglect report, call the DEA **Protective Services Unit** at **462-0555**.

RELATIVES AS PARENTS/KIDKAMP

The **Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP)** was established to help grandparents and other relatives parenting children with needed services and support. The program offers services that range from a friendly and sympathetic ear to providing a **KIDKAMP Connection** which gives both the caregiver (60 and older) respite and the child (under 18) scholarship to participate in camp during summer and school vacation as well as other recreational and educational programs.

Information and answers to legal, medical, and financial questions can be addressed with compassion and understanding. A network of agencies throughout the state have established programs to meet the needs of each "kincare" family.

To learn how **RAPP** can help you, or someone you know, call the **Department of Elderly Affairs** at **462-0507** or one of the following **RAPP** network agencies.

Comprehensive CAP	967-9610
Ctr. for Hispanic Policy/Advocacy (ChisPA) ..	467-0111
Family Resources Community Action	766-0900
Providence YMCA	456-0100 ext. 115
West Warwick Senior Center	822-4450
City of Warwick	738-7832

RESPIRE CARE

Respite is temporary care given inside or outside the home for seniors who cannot entirely care for themselves. It provides relief to caregivers.

Respite Care Services offers two programs:

Subsidized Respite Program - This program provides relief to primary caregivers whom live with someone 55 years or older, in need of personal care assistance. In-home respite, adult day services, and overnight stays in assisted living facilities are provided on a cost-sharing basis.

Homemaking Program - Homemakers are available for \$7/8 per hour to anyone 55 or older, and handicapped or disabled adults of any age whose incomes are within the guidelines of the RI Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Elderly program. This program recruits, trains, and matches respite homemakers with eligible clients. Homemakers can provide assistance with home maintenance or companionship. Call at **421-7886**.

Hospice Care of RI provides respite for terminally ill persons. Call **727-7070**.

SENIOR CENTERS

Senior centers offer volunteer opportunities, recreation, group activities, counseling, information and referral, and continuing education. Some provide hot lunches, outreach, transportation, and health services.

Barrington Senior Center.....**247-1926**

281 County Road 02806

Bristol: Benjamin Church Senior Center

1020 Hope Street 02809.....**253-8458**

Central Falls.....**728-7300**

YMCA Community Center of CF*

361 Cowden Street 02863

Charlestown Senior Center**364-9955**

Ninigret Park 02813

Coventry Senior Center**822-9175**

50 Wood Street 02816

Cranston Senior Center*.....**461-1000**

1070 Cranston Street 02920

Cumberland Senior Center.....**334-2555**

1464 Diamond Hill Rd 02864

E. Providence Sr. Center.....**435-7800**

610 Waterman Avenue 02914

Jamestown Senior Center**423-2658**

6 West Street 02835

Johnston Senior Center.....**944-3343**

14 Priscilla Lane 02919

SENIOR CENTERS

Lincoln Senior Center **723-3270**
40 Chapel Street 02865

Middletown Senior Center **849-8823**
650 Green End Ave 02842

Narragansett Senior Center **782-0675**
53 Mumford Road 02882

Newport:

Edward King House **846-7426**
35 King Street 02840

Florence Gray Senior Ctr **849-7243**
1 Park Holm 02840

Martin Luther King Ctr **846-4828**
20 West Broadway 02840

North Kingstown Sr. Center **268-1590**
10 Beach Street 02852

North Providence: **231-0742**
Salvatore Mancini Resource Center*
2240 Mineral Spring Ave 02911

Pawtucket:

Leon Mathieu Senior Ctr* **728-7582**
420 Main Street 02860

Portsmouth Senior Ctr* **683-4106**
110 Bristol Ferry Rd. 02871

SENIOR CENTERS

Providence:

DaVinci Community Ctr.....**272-7474**
470 Charles Street 02904
East Side Senior Center**272-4632**
670 North Main Street 02904
Elmwood Senior Center.....**461-7940**
155 Niagara Street 02907
Federal Hill Community Ctr.....**421-4722**
9 Courtland Street 02903
Fox Point Senior Center.....**751-2217**
90 Ives Street 02906
Hamilton House**831-1800**
276 Angell Street 02906
Hartford Park Senior Center**521-1180**
20 Syracuse Street 02909
Jewish Community Center.....**861-8800**
401 Elmgrove Avenue 02906
Nickerson House Sr. Ctr**351-2241**
133 Delaine Street 02909
Silver Lake Center **944-8300 (V/TTY)**
529 Plainfield Street 02909
*Deaf seniors meet Tuesdays (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.)
Lillian Feinstein Senior Ctr.....**455-3888**
1085 Chalkstone Avenue 02908

SENIOR CENTERS

PROVIDENCE

St. Martin dePorres Sr. Ctr***274-6783**

160 Cranston St. 02907

Washington Park Ctr, 42 Jillson St 02905**461-6650**

Westminster Senior Center***274-6900**

133 Mathewson Street 02903

Smithfield Sr. Ctr, 100 Lisa Ann Cir, 02828.....**949-4590**

South Kingstown:

The Center, 25 St Dominic Rd. 02879**789-0268**

Tiverton Senior Center***625-6790**

207 Canonicus Road 02878

Warren Senior Center, 20 Libby Ln. 02885**247-1930**

Warwick:

Buttonwoods Center**732-0140**

3027 West Shore Road 02886

JONAH Community Center.....**739-1305**

830 Oakland Beach Ave. 02889

Pilgrim Senior Ctr., 27 Pilgrim Pkwy 02888.....**463-3474**

West Warwick Senior Center.....**822-4450**

20 Factory Street 02893

Westerly Senior Center, 39 State St. 02891**596-2404**

Woonsocket Senior Center.....**766-3734**

84 Social Street 02895

*Indicates a "community focal point on aging."

SENIOR CITIZENS POLICE ADVOCATES

Police advocates receive special training on issues relating to the safety of older people. They are the point of contact for seniors who have concerns about crime in their community.

Barrington: Scott McGovney.....	437-3930
Block Island: Stephen Cahill.....	466-3220
Bristol: Kenneth DaSilva.....	253-6900
Burrillville: Angela Jallette.....	568-6255
Central Falls:	727-7411
Sandy Graiko/John Laboissoniere	
Charlestown: Jack Shippee.....	364-1212
Coventry: Paul Koczwanski.....	826-1100
Cranston: Ray Gemma.....	942-2211
Cumberland: Michael Kinch.....	333-2500
Ea. Greenwich: Jon Chirnside.....	884-2244
Ea. Providence: Mark Norton.....	435-7630
Exeter: Darren Delaney.....	444-1068
Foster: Robert Bolger.....	397-3317
Glocester: Alan Gusafson.....	568-2533
Hopkinton: Pasquale Dinonsie.....	377-7750
Jamestown: John Dube.....	423-1212
Johnston:	231-4210
John Perotta/Leonard Andrews	
Lincoln: Bob Kells.....	333-1111
Little Compton: Daniel Martin.....	635-2311

SENIOR CITIZENS POLICE ADVOCATES

Middletown: Harry Clancy.....846-1144

Narragansett:

Joseph Little..... 789-1091, X203

Newport: Kevin Parsonage.....847-1302

Sandra Langlais, Anthony Piermont

N. Kingtown: Daniel Ormand.....294-3316

N. Providence: Robert Lough.....233-1433

N. Smithfield: Kevin Gouveia.....762-1212

Pawtucket: Angelo Squadrito.....727-9100

Portsmouth: Deborah Bessette683-0300

Providence:..... 272-3121, X2455

Joseph Sarrasin

Richmond: Raymond Driscoll.....539-8289

Scituate: Charles Collins, Jr.821-5900

Smithfield: Kevin Proulx.....231-2500

S.Kingstown: Geoff Peckham.....783-3321

Tiverton: Scott Beaulieu.....624-9611

Warren: Samuel Green.....245-1311

Warwick: Matthew Costello468-4325

Westerly: Mike Turano596-2022

Ronald Gaccione

W. Greenwich: Ray Cappelli397-7191

West Warwick: Scott Amaral.....821-4323

Woonsocket: John Donlon.....766-1212

State Police: Gary Treml.....444-1000

SENIOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The DEA sponsors employment and training programs for income eligible persons 55 and older.

The **Senior Job Service** serves all persons 55 and over (regardless of income) seeking part-time or full-time jobs. Job counselors can assist in job matching, referrals, and assistance with job searches.

The **Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)** provides employment and training opportunities through placement at non-profit agencies statewide. Participants earn minimum wage, work 20 hours weekly and develop skills on the job for future employment. The program goal is land permanent part-time or full-time employment.

These **SCSEPs** serve Rhode Island:

Department of Elderly Affairs.....	462-0541
Senior Aide Program/East Bay.....	437-1008
AARP-SCSEP/Cranston	464-6616
Senior Aide Program/Warwick.....	732-4660
Senior Aide Program/Providence	351-4300

NetWORKri provides job search assistance, employment opportunities, and workshops at no cost through a DEA partnership. Call **462-0541**.

SOCIAL SECURITY

The **Social Security Administration (SSA)** is the primary source of information about **Social Security**, **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**, and **Medicare** enrollment. The Personal Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statement provides workers with a year by year record of their earnings and an estimate of their Social Security benefits. For information, visit www.ssa.gov.

In 2003, beneficiaries under 65 may earn up to \$11,520 without affecting their Social Security benefits. Workers reaching 65 may earn up to \$30,720 in the months before they become 65 and still receive all their benefits for that year. There is no earnings limit for workers 65 or older.

Newport Office	1-800-772-1213
130 Bellevue Ave 02840	849-3487
Pawtucket Office	1-800-772-1213
55 Broad Street 02860	724-9611
Providence Office	1-800-772-1213
380 Westminster Mall 02903	528-4501
Warwick Office	1-800-772-1213
30 Quaker Lane 02886.....	822-1463
Westerly and Vicinity	1-800-772-1213
2 Shaws Cove -Rm.203	1-860 443-8455
New London, CT 06320	

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)

SSI provides supplemental cash payments for qualified people 65 and older, or blind, or with a disability.

Apply for **SSI** through the Social Security Administration by calling **1-800-772-1213**. More information is available on the web site www.ssa.gov. **SSI** recipients are eligible for Medical Assistance, homemaker service if determined necessary, moving expenses, a discount on telephone service, a hearing aid if necessary, reduced electric rates, and assistance from a social worker.

SSI recipients may have earnings up to \$65/month before **SSI** benefits are affected. These are the 2003 eligibility guidelines.

Monthly unearned income	Individual	Couple
*In own household:	\$629.35	\$957.50
*In another's household:	\$457.94	\$701.17
*In residential care/assisted living facility:	\$1,147	
Resources (savings, cash value of stocks and bonds, etc.)	\$2,000	\$3,000
Face value of life insurance	\$1,500 per person	

TAX INFORMATION

All RI cities and towns offer some type of property tax relief to their older residents who meet age, income and residency requirements. Inquire at your city or town hall.

Applications for the RI property tax relief program must be filed between January 1 and April 15. Certain homeowners and renters with household incomes under \$30,000 may receive up to \$250.

Information and assistance with state income taxes is available from:

RI Division of Taxation

One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908 **222-1040**

"Forms Only" **222-1111**

Or, you can visit their web site at www.tax.state.ri.us.

Information regarding federal taxes is available from the:

Internal Revenue Service **1-800-829-1040**

380 Westminister Mall..... **1-800-829-4059 (TTY)**

Prov., RI 02903"Forms Only"..... **1-800-829-3676**

Or, you can visit their web site at www.irs.gov.

The **AARP Tax Aide** program provides information and assistance with completing tax returns between February and April 15 at numerous sites around the state. Call the DEA **Customer Information and Assistance Unit** at **462-4000 (V/TTY)** after January 15 to get a list of AARP sites.

TRANSPORTATION

The **Ride** program provides transportation services to those 60 and older and handicapped persons under 60 who meet certain criteria. Transportation is available weekdays for doctors' appointments, therapy, medical tests, senior day care, kidney dialysis, cancer treatments and meal sites. Call **Ride** approximately two to four weeks prior to appointments at **461-9760** or **1-800-479-6902**.

These communities provide senior transportation:

Barrington.....	247-1926
Bristol	253-8458
Burrillville.....	568-4440
Central Falls	724-6021
Coventry	822-9175
Cranston.....	943-3341
Glocester.....	568-2533
Lincoln.....	723-3270
Narragansett.....	782-0675
North Kingstown	295-0666
North Smithfield.....	765-3535
Pawtucket.....	725-8220
Scituate	647-3160
Smithfield.....	949-4590
South Kingstown	783-8736
Warren	245-8140
Warwick.....	463-3474

TRANSPORTATION

ADA Paratransit Services-Rhode Islanders of all ages with a disability may be eligible for **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** paratransit services. The **Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA)** provides curb to curb transportation service to people with disabilities which prevent them from using regular **RIPTA** bus service.

ADA transportation is provided along existing **RIPTA** service corridors at a cost of twice the standard bus rate for all riders. Apply by calling **784-9553**.

RIPTA Bus Pass Program- Bus passes cost residents 65 or older \$5 and are valid for 5 years. Qualified riders who have a disability pay \$2 for their 2-year pass. Pass holders pay half-fare on off-peak hours, weekends, and holidays.

Bus pass holders enrolled in **Medical Assistance** or **RIPAE** or who have incomes within the **RIPAE** limit, may apply for the **No Fare** program and ride free during all hours. Call RIPTA at **784-9500** for details.

For additional information on RIPTA programs, you can go to their web site at www.ripta.com.

VOLUNTEERS

Retired Senior Volunteer Programs (RSVP)

provide opportunities for persons 60 years and older to utilize their enthusiasm, skills, and experience in a volunteer capacity.

Volunteers serve in many hospitals, day care centers, governmental agencies, Head Start Centers and schools. Several **RSVP** organization volunteers entertain at nursing homes and at other events. Some volunteers are friendly visitors to homebound and institutionalized patients.

Blackstone Valley RSVP	723-4520
Capitol Region RSVP	421-7472
Cranston RSVP	461-1000,X6180
East Bay RSVP	435-7876
Seniors Helping Others	789-2362
West Bay RSVP	732-4660
Woonsocket RSVP	766-2300

The **Service Corps Of Retired Executives (SCORE)** is composed of retired business executives who draw upon their years of experience to offer advice as consultants to beginning and struggling small businesses. Call **528-4571**.

VOLUNTEERS

Stipend Programs-The Corporation for National Service funds three stipend volunteer programs in RI. All volunteers are 60 and over, have a limited income and receive a tax-free stipend and other benefits while serving clients 20 hours weekly.

Senior Companion Program volunteers serve frail, isolated older adults in their own homes and at adult day centers. They help solve problems and bolster self-esteem. Call **462-0569**.

While they are not social workers and don't provide home care or transportation, Senior Companions help their friends live with added zest.

The **Providence Foster Grandparent Program**, 9 Cortland Street, Providence 02909 serves special needs children in the capital city. Call **421-1095**. The **Foster Grandparent Program of RI**, 20 Factory Street, West Warwick 02893 serves special needs children statewide. Grandparents serve in residential and community settings such as schools, day care centers and hospitals. Call **822-4450**.